

Message Text

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11
ACTION EUR-12

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R 072152Z SEP 76
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 959

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, CA
SUBJ: CLAUDE WAGNER GIVES UP KEY PC ROLE

1. PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE (PC) LEADER JOE CLARK ANNOUNCED SEPT 3 THAT CLAUDE WAGNER, CLOSE RUNNER-UP FOR THE PC LEADERSHIP IN FEBRUARY AND THE FRENCH CANADIAN IN NATIONAL PC CIRCLES, WAS RESIGNING AS CHAIRMAN OF THE PC COMMITTEE OF CAUCUS CHAIRMEN. BEGIN FYI: THIS CONVOLUTED TITLE IS BEST TRANSLATED AS DE FACTO COORDINATOR OF PC CAUCUS POLICY. THE INCUMBENT IS FIRST AMONG SHADOW CABINET MINISTER EQUALS. THE POSITION HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN HELD BY THE PARTY LEADER AND CLARK'S GIVING IT TO WAGNER AFTER THE LEADERSHIP CONVENTION WAS SEEN AS AN OLIVE BRANCH GESTURE TO WAGNER'S BACKERS FROM QUEBEC. END FYI. CLARK HAS ASSUMED THE ADDED ROLE. BOTH HE AND WAGNER STATED THAT THE REASON FOR THE MOVE WAS TO ALLOW WAGNER MORE TIME FOR HIS DUTIES AS FOREIGN POLICY CRITIC.

2. COMMENT: MUCH AS THE MEDIA AND PC FOES WOULD LIKE TO BUILD THE WAGNER RESIGNATION INTO A CLARK/WAGNER OR ENGLISH/FRENCH SCHISM, AVAILABLE EVIDENCE DOES NOT SUPPORT THE THEORY. WAGNER WAS REPORTEDLY HOSPITALIZED LAST SPRING AND HIS GIVING UP THIS KEY POLICY ROLE COULD REPRESENT A DESIRE TO REDUCE HIS WORK LOAD. BUT THERE ARE NO PRESENT SIGNS OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN
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CLARK AND WAGNER. THEY ARE NOW, FOR EXAMPLE,

TRAVELING TOGETHER THROUGH EUROPE ON AN EXPOSURE MISSION
NOT UNLIKE CLARK'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON LAST JUNE.
DUEMLING

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Message Attributes

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